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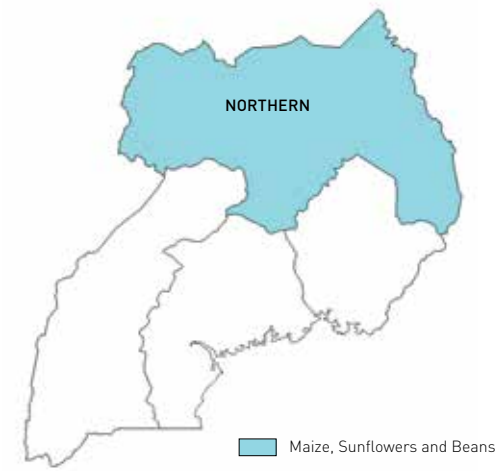
MAINSTREAMING FOOD LOSS REDUCTION INITIATIVES FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS

FOOD LOSS ANALYSIS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL LOSS POINTS AND SOLUTIONS OF MAIZE, SUNFLOWERS AND BEANS VALUE CHAINS IN UGANDA

BACKGROUND

The RBA Project is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Funded by the Government of Switzerland, the Project seeks to improve food security and income-generating opportunities through the reduction of post-harvest losses in supported grain and pulse value chains. The Project identified critical loss points, and supported the piloting of good practices and solutions to reduce post-harvest losses and improve handling and storage in the pilot countries Burkina Faso, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Project will also support the development of regulatory frameworks covering policy, standards and norms to reduce food losses in food supply chains in each of the countries.



MAIZE

All along the supply chain selected in the Northern region of Uganda, it is observed that the most important Critical Loss Points (CLP) are at harvest; storage and associated grain processing stages; and milling. **At harvest level indicative levels of losses are identified at 3.3%** due to delayed harvesting or incomplete harvesting, crop exposed to pests and bad weather. **At household storage indicative losses for 10%** are mainly due to pest damage and aflatoxin. **At milling phase some 5%** of produce is indicatively lost due to spillage.

METHODOLOGY APPLIED

The identification of critical loss points of the selected value chains was done applying the FAO methodology *"Food Loss Analysis: Causes and Solutions, Case Studies in the Small-scale Agriculture and Fisheries Subsectors"*. It consists in 4 steps: screening, load tracking to estimate qualitative and quantitative losses along selected supply chains, survey and synthesis. This methodology allows to identify critical loss points (CLP) along the selected supply chains, the major causes of losses, appropriate, feasible and sustainable solutions (including on equipment and investments), best practices and reduction strategies.

SUNFLOWERS

The CLP identified in the selected supply chain in Northern Uganda are: **harvesting (indicative losses for 2.46%** due to crop left in the field and spillage), threshing **(indicative loss for 2.40% due to spillage)**, drying (indicative loss 3% due to spillage or eaten by domestic animals), and bulking storage points **(indicative losses 2% due to spillage, rodents and mold at traders and cooperative level)**. Finally, at small-scale miller level **(indicative losses are 1.50% at storage and 5% at milling).**

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BEANS

Along the selected beans supply chain CLP are seen at harvesting (**indicative quantitative losses for 3.19%** due to unharvested beans, and shattering). At threshing & winnowing (**indicative quantitative and qualitative losses for ca. 1% caused by spillage, breakage, and wind blowing**). At farm level storage: **indicative quantity and quality losses for 1.77**% due to insect infestation, molding and spillage greatly reduces the market value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In Uganda it is recommended to:

- Support capacity building for women and men farmers, traders and millers on improved grain handling and storage
- Set up and manage demonstration and validation technology sites accessible to women and men hosting tarpaulins, pallets, drying yards & racks, mechanical threshers, cleaners, hermetic bags, and plastic/ metal silos among others
- Encourage appropriate household grain storage in units including storage in superbags, metal silos, plastic silos to enhance household food security accessible to women and men
- Set up bi-laws that encourage proper drying of grain and critical observation of safety levels especially with respect to aflatoxin
- Promote grain marketing by promoting communal storage and marketing enterprises to improve grain market access, value chain development
- Enhance private sector engagement to address the issue of loss reduction

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- Support multi-stakeholder approaches to combat postharvest losses. Identify support from UN partners and other donor agencies to finance the strategy

WOMEN' ROLES IN POST HARVEST ACTIVITIES

Gender relations are a primary component of the social and economic context which influences how women and men participate in and benefit from food value chain activities. Gender inequalities in access to and control over productive resources and participation to decision-making process are an underlying reason of the inefficiencies of food value chains and subsequently of food losses. By recognizing the link between gender and food losses, the FAO Methodology for Food Loss Analysis looks at the different roles played by women and men in Critical Loss Points, by collecting sex disaggregated data and identifying specific constraints and opportunities for women and men to reduce food losses. In Uganda, losses were observed during transporting from the field to the homestead. Due to mobility restrictions, women had to ferry the produce on the head. Enhancing the access of women to facilities and equipment, such as wheelbarrows and bicycles, would considerably reduce these losses.

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Networks and partners:

With the support of:

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